Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

News

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

Montana State Library

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY HIRES NEW NRIS DIRECTOR

The Natural Resource Information System, a division of the State Library, has a new director. Jon Sesso, formerly director of the National Center for Appropriate Technology in Butte, joined the growing system on January fourth. Sesso replaces Larry Thompson.

NRIS is a computer indexing system for information about Montana's natural resources. The system includes indexing on topics so varied as rare species of animals, mining and on the state of the state's water.

Two new positions within the system were filled recently. Stimson, who worked for the United States Geological Survey in Helena, joined the staff as Water Information System Specialist in October. Allan Cox, who worked for the Virginia Geographic Information System, took the new position at the of Geographic System Coordinator here in November.

NRIS information is available to state agencies, private business and to the general public. The service is free. Interested persons can write the Montana State Library or they may call 444-3115

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS TO DISCUSS LSCA FUNDING FOR 1989

The Montana Library Services Advisory Council met January 21st in Bozeman. The focus of discussion was further gleaning of projects being considered for Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) funding in 1989.

The Advisory Council targeted the areas they might be interested in recommending to the Commission for LSCA support. They include the following projects:

A major automation project including the development of automation standards for libraries in the state and contracting for a consultant to assist libraries in automating. ($87,500)

A project in retrospective conversion (recon) of the "last copy" fiction depository at Parmly Billings, the Historical Society collection in Helena and OCLC records at various locations. ($30,000)

A project involving design and implementation of a certification system for public library personnel. ($10,000)

A project calling for the hiring of a consultant to study, plan and design a rapid delivery system for libraries in the state. ($10,000)

Funding for meetings among collection development personnel from university libraries for structured discussions on cooperative collection development issues. ($6,000)

Funding for similar meetings among collection development personnel. ($3,000)

Funding for similar meetings among documents librarians ($3,000)

MLA MEETING PLANS GROW

Workshops scheduled for the Montana Library Association's 75th Annual Meeting cover a wide range of interests, from automation and Appleworks, to planning and public relations. The meeting will be held April 27th through 30th in Helena.

Judy Meadows, Conference Chair, describes this year's event as "the most extravagant raffle imaginable." Items and services donated by MLA members and by merchants will be raffled.

Meadows requests ideas and suggestions for the conference. She can be contacted at the State Law Library, 444-3660.

Ellen Newberg, Parmly Billings director, presents a check to buy materials to Jean Miller and Monte Jabs, chair of the Big Horn County Library board.

BIG HORN COUNTY DEDICATION OF NEW ADDITION ATTRACTS MANY

The new addition to the Big Horn County Public Library in Hardin was officially dedicated on Saturday, January fifth. The dedication featured a ribbon cutting by Herschel Robbins, Chairman of the Montana Coal Tax Board. The addition comprises 9,600 square feet and five levels. The original [illegible] square feet.

"We feel we have finally gotten [illegible] and the patience of the patient weather to materialize," said Jean Miller, library director. The dedication [illegible] people.

On Friday, January [illegible] Jane Jones, children of Hardin [illegible] for their [illegible] ceremony. Pioneer [illegible] presented the children's library with [illegible].

ANNOUNCEMENTS OPPORTUNITIES

The Legislative Council has [illegible] excess inventory of several documents to give away. They include Session Laws, Journals of the Legislature and Proceedings of the 1972 Constitutional Convention. There are volumes [illegible] Montana's territorial [illegible].

Books will be mailed to libraries [illegible] cost of shipping. The offer is open between now and June [illegible] inventory will then be discarded. Libraries interested in more information may contact the Legislative Council, Room [illegible] State Capitol, Helena 59620, 444-3064.

The Office of the Court Administrator, Montana Supreme Court, has a limited [illegible] of Montana Reports. Montana Reports are the opinions of the Supreme Court. The Reports are available free [illegible]. Libraries Volumes run [illegible] Although [illegible] but inventory is not complete for all [illegible] Libraries that need to fill [illegible] may check what is available by contacting Patti Harris, Montana Supreme Court Office of the Court Administrator, Room 315, Justice Bldg., 215 N. Sanders, Helena, MT 59620, (406) 444-2621.

"Library Administrative Use of Microcomputers" will be offered June 6-10 at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. The course can be counted toward one credit toward a master of library science degree at either the University of Wyoming or the University of Arizona. Persons wanting more information should contact Corky Walters, Wyoming State Library, Supreme Court Building, Cheyenne, WY, 82002, (307)777-7281.

Many librarians would like current information about what newspapers are being indexed in Montana. The State Library will compile and make available a list of newspapers that are currently being indexed if persons involved in indexing will please contact Sallie Fenning at the State Library.

The State Library has a file of announcements and descriptions of various continuing education opportunities and of grants and awards for which libraries may apply. Persons who are interested in obtaining more specific information should contact Sallie Fenning at the State Library.

Interlibrary loans librarians should note the Library of Congress symbol for Glendive Public Library has been changed from MtGle to MtG. Libraries which do not purchase new WLN Resource Directories each year should make note of this change in their WLN directories and in their other symbol directories.

New promotional materials for National Library Week 1988 (April 17-23) and School Library Media Month (April) are available from the American Library Association. For more information contact ALA Graphics, 50 E. Huron., Chicago, IL 60611.

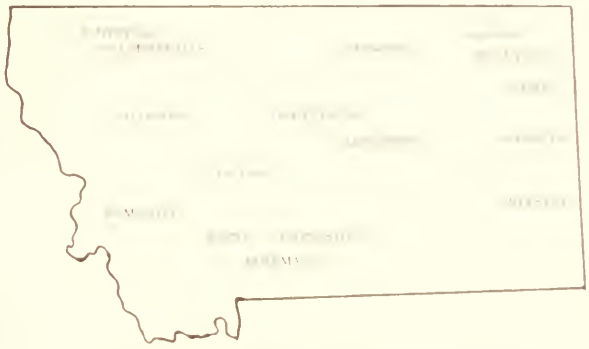
TELEFAX MACHINES FIND PERMANENT HOMES

The Montana Faxnet Project announced the final distribution of 16 Telefax machines. The Project's selection of public libraries was based on applications submitted by the libraries. The recipient libraries are throughout the state.

The distribution of the machines is the culmination of a trial program which has demonstrated the usefulness of the machines.

Public, college and hospital libraries participated in the trial phase. With the grants of many of the units to public libraries, a permanent network of "fax" machines has been established.

The libraries who will receive machines and the machine phone numbers are as follows: Glendive Public Library (365-3633) Butte-Silver Bow Public Library (723-8262x377) Livingston Public Library (222-0862) Bitterroot Public Library in Hamilton (363-1678) Lewistown Public Library (538-5212) Miles City Public Library (232-1496) Roosevelt Public Library in Wolf Point (653-2411) Glasgow City/County Library (228-8193) Augusta Community Library (562-3348) Lincoln Community Library (362-4300) Bozeman Public Library (587-7785) Great Falls Public Library (453-0181) Columbia Falls Branch (892-5919) Blaine County Public Library in Chinook (357-2932) Sidney Public Library (482-1917) and Whitefish Branch Library (862-6257).



NEW PERMANENT "FAX" MACHINE SITES

"COMFORT LEVEL" SHOULD BE ASSESSED FOR LIBRARIES

Express, a publication of the Ontario Library Service-Rideau, in Ottawa, offers the following points for assessing the library "comfort level" for older adults in its May 1987 issue (p.5). The publication emphasizes that the improvements in the environment for older people are improvements for everyone who uses the library.

1. Be sure that ramps are short and only slightly inclined

2. Doorsills and joints between different areas of the building should be smooth.

3. Floor surfaces should be non-slip.

4. Carpeting needs to be in good condition and firmly tacked down.

5. Handrails should be located in strategic positions, such as along ramps and staircases.

6. Edges of handrails, door frames and intersections of walls and floors should be in contrasting colors for easy identification.

7. Doors, drawers and mobile equipment should be easy to move and operate.

8. Levers, knobs, latches and faucets should be easy to turn, move and operate.

9. Devices that must be grasped or operated should be within easy reach and defined by color and texture.

10. Shelving, signs and displays should not become obstacles.

11. Program and meeting rooms need bright light.

12. All instructions should be simply worded and clearly visible

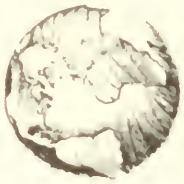
These suggestions were compiled by Patty Lawlor, Public Library Consultant for the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communication

NONFICTION COLLECTION GUIDELINES FOR LIBRARIES AVAILABLE

The Library Services and Construction Act funded core collection project which was begun in 1985 has culminated with the State Library's publication of Core Collection Guidelines for Smaller Libraries.

The publication gives detailed information for libraries to consider when developing a collection. Though the title indicates the guidelines are for smaller libraries, they are also applicable for larger public and school libraries.

The Guidelines are being sent to all public libraries and to all school libraries in the state. Librarians who have not received a copy and who would like to, should contact Robert Bayuk at the State Library



PUBLIC LIBRARIES FORUMS PROMOTE DISCUSSIONS

National Issues Forums (NIF) provide an opportunity for citizens across the country to speak their minds and to find out what their neighbors are thinking about national issues. Steering committees are now planning another year of forums to begin next fall.

NIF, a program of the Domestic Policy Association, is in its sixth year. Forums are hosted by more and more public libraries each year.

Libraries throughout the United States are using the themes provided by NIF attract local people to discussions of local issues.

Local organizers stage their own forums. The NIF provides materials and coordinates a follow-up event. Washington Week. Washington Week includes briefings of congressional and White House staffs.

Libraries interested in learning more about the NIF or in sponsoring a forum, may write Dr. John Kinghorn, National Issues Forums, 100 Commons Rd., Dayton, Ohio, 45459-2777 or may call 1-800-433-7834.

AROUND THE STATE

The **Philipsburg Library Board of Trustees** announce their publication of a new cookbook, Philipsburg Prospects of Pantry. The cookbook features historical notes about the Philipsburg area as well as drawings by local artists. The cookbook was written and printed in Philipsburg and proceeds from its sale will go to the Philipsburg Public Library. Cookbooks may be purchased for $7.50 plus $1.00 for mailing from the Philipsburg library at Box 459, Philipsburg, MT 59858.

Jean Miller retired as director of the **Big Horn County Library in Hardin** on February 12th. At a retirement dinner on January 30th the library's employees presented Miller with a plaque bearing the inscription, "Jean Miller, a good director, a good friend."

Sandra Watts replaced Miller as director on February 8th.

The **City-County Library** in Glasgow promoted their large print book collection in the Glasgow Courier by announcing in large print, "This is the size of type used in large print books carried by the City-County Library in Glasgow."

In the November newsletter it was noted that the **Miles City Public Library** had received a grant of a videocassette recorder from the ALA-Carnegie Video Project. It has since been learned that several other Montana libraries received recorders from the Project, too. They include **Choteau County Free Library in Fort Benton, Glasgow City-County Library, Big Horn County Library in Hardin, Flathead County Library in Kalispell and Livingston Public Library.**

The Whitefish Library Associntion purchased a $1900 copy machine for the **Whitefish Public Library.**

The **Roosevelt County Library in Wolf Point** celebrated their 73rd birthday on January 21st with an all-day open house.

The library was started in 1914 with 80 books. In 1941 the library's circulation was 810. In FY 1987, it was 40,000.

Montana State Library Commission

Montana State Library
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